

Dear Esteemed Members of the Housing Committee:

As an individual who sits on my town local RTM as well as the Board of Human Services and The Affordable Housing Trust in Greenwich, I am intimately aware of the need for the development of affordable housing in my town. I understand that the lack of affordable housing is detrimental to those communities, since many whom work in the community including teachers, police, fire, EMS and low-income workers cannot afford to live where they work.

Today, I speak on behalf of myself and not as a member of any of these groups.

I am writing in opposition to H.B. No. 6593 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING AUTHORITY JURISDICTION. This is simply a bad bill and in direct conflict with a towns ability to meet the already impossible 10% affordable housing requirements set forth under CT Statute 8-30g. Which in and of itself needs to be modified. Under H.B. 6593 which would allow any housing authority to operate outside of their own municipality without first requiring the expressed consent and municipal governing body approval, such as a local RTM, is simply wrong and undermines the necessity of local municipalities to look out for the health, welfare and safety of its residents.

There is a reason that local Planning & Zoning Commission's are important. Under no circumstance could a housing authority in Hartford for example, be aware of the critical infrastructure issues that face MANY of the 169 towns and cities in our beautiful State of Connecticut.

Stop trying to dictate "one size fits all" policy to address the real need for affordable housing. We can do better than this.

Sincerely,
Tara Restieri
Greenwich, CT